

REMARKS

The present response accompanies a Request for Continued Examination (RCE). Claims 49-58 and 60 are pending in the application. Claims 49, 52 and 60 have been amended and claims 43-48 and 59 have been canceled. Claims 1-42 were previously canceled. Support for the amendments to claims 49, 52 and 60 may be found at ¶¶ 0038-0041, for example.

Claims 43-49, 51-56, 58 and 59 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,678,366 ("Burger"). Claim 50 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Burger and claims 57 and 60 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Burger in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2001/0005412 ("Light").

Claims 43-48 and 59 have been canceled, thereby obviating the rejection with respect to these claims. As amended, independent claim 49 recites, in part, selecting a first communications device at which an intended recipient can likely be reached, wherein the selection is based, at least in part, on an evaluation of received status information, causing information associated with a communication initiator to be displayed on the first communication device, and establishing the communication session between a second communications device selected by the intended recipient and a third communications device associated with the communication initiator.

As amended, independent claim 52 recites, in part, selecting a preferred communications device from at least two communications devices based on received status information, causing information associated with a communication initiator or a requestor to be displayed on the preferred communications device, and handling a request to facilitate establishing a communication session according to a predetermined call treatment procedure if the user elects not to establish the communication session.

As amended, independent claim 60 recites, in part, selecting a preferred communications device from at least two communications devices based on received status information, causing information associated with a requestor to be displayed on the preferred communication device, and establishing the communication session between a

communications device selected by a user and a communications device associated with the requestor.

Burger describes a telephone call manager module 114 for determining whether there is a Best Guess Location (BGL) that should be used to locate subscriber 404 (Burger at col. 8, ll. 40-43). The BGL may be determined according various criteria, such as the last telephone number 312 to be used to successfully complete a prior call (*Id.* at col. 8, ll. 45-65). If a valid BGL 404 exists, telephone call manager module 114 will call the BGL 406 and validate the telephone connection 408 if the call is answered (*Id.* at col. 9, ll. 50-52). If a valid BGL 404 does not exist, or the first telephone connection 408 is not validated, telephone call manager 114 will use telephone number selection protocol 420 to select an available subscriber telephone number 312 having the highest weight, according to configurations 314 (*Id.* at col. 10, ll. 3-7). If telephone call 422 is not validated and there are no available telephone numbers 312, no answer protocol 428 is initiated (*Id.* at col. 10, ll. 34-36). In sum, telephone call manager module 114 merely directs incoming calls based on predetermined criteria. Thus, in contrast to the claimed invention, Burger does not disclose, teach, or suggest causing information associated with a communication initiator (see claims 49 and 52) or a requestor (see claim 60) to be displayed on a first communications device (see claim 49) or a preferred communications device (see claims 52 and 60).

Light describes a telephone status monitor 6 that continually monitors a series of telephones 2, 4 and updates status file 8 with the on-hook or off-hook status of telephones 2, 4 (Light at ¶¶ 0037 and 0038). A calling party may access the status information via the Internet (*Id.* at ¶ 0043). If a called party's telephone line status is in an on-hook condition, the calling party may then dial the called party (*Id.* at ¶ 0044). In other words, Light simply enables the calling party to determine whether the called party is currently on the phone without first dialing the called party's telephone number. Thus, Applicants submit that, like Burger, Light does not disclose, teach, or suggest causing information associated with a communication initiator or a requestor to be displayed on a first communications device or a preferred communications device.

For at least the foregoing reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that independent claims 49, 52 and 60 patentably define over the cited references and are, therefore, allowable. Additionally, as claims 50 and 51 depend from claim 49 and claims 53-58 depend from claim


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52, Applicants further submit that the dependent claims are also allowable. Reconsideration of the application and issuance of a Notice of Allowability are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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Christos A. Ioannidi
Registration No. 54,195

Woodcock Washburn LLP
One Liberty Place - 46th Floor
Philadelphia PA 19103
Telephone: (215) 568-3100
Facsimile: (215) 568-3439